

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7839
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
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AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NJDAMENA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EG, LY, MOPS
SUBJECT: EGYPT/LIBYA: PRESS COMMENTARY

REF: CAIRO 12612

1. VISITORS: EGYPTIAN PRESS JULY 29 REPORTS DEPARTURE LAST OF
SADAT'S VISITING MEDIATORS. PRESIDENT EYADEMA RETURNED TO TOGO
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(FOLLOWING MEETING WITH QADHAFI IN TRIPOLI), KHADDAM IS BACK IN
SYRIA (ALSO FOLLOWING LIBYAN STOP), WHILE IRAQI MINISTER HAMID
ALWAN REPORTED TO BE IN TRIPOLI. KUWAITI FONMIN SABAH AL-
AHMED, CHIEF OF JORDANIAN COURT ABDUL HAMID SHARAF, AND PLO LEADER
YASSIR ARAFAT LEFT EARLIER.

2. MESSAGES. SADAT CONTINUING EXPLAIN HIS CASE ABROAD;

EGYPTIAN EMBASSIES IN KUWAIT AND ABU DHABI HAVE DELIVERED PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES TO RESPECTIVE HEADS OF STATE.

3. AGREEMENT? KUWAITI FONMIN SHEIK SABAH AL-AHMED QUOTED HERE AS SAYING EGYPTIAN/LIBYAN CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT WILL BE ANNOUNCED NEXT WEEK. PALESTINIAN NEWS AGENCY SAYS AGREEMENTS WILL INCLUDE HIGH LEVEL MEETING--BUT NOT BETWEEN CHIEFS OF STATE--TO BE HELD IN EITHER ALGERIA OR KUWAIT. LIBYAN JOURNAL AL-JIHAD, HOWEVER, QUOTED BY CAIRO PRESS AS SAYING LIBYA PROBABLY NOT READY TO JOIN CAIRO IN DECLARING CEASE-FIRE.

4. LIBYAN ARMS. EGYPTIAN PRESS MOOTS POSSIBILITY THAT LIBYAN FONMIN ALY AL-TOURIKI IN PARIS SEEKING GUNS. ACCORDING PRESS, HE ATTEMPTING BUY TEN GUNBOATS EQUIPPED WITH LANCE MISSILES (SIC), ARMORED VEHICLES AND UNSPECIFIED VARIETY OF OTHER WEAPONS.

5. SUPPORT. EGYPTIAN PAPERS QUOTE GERMAN NEWS MEDIA EXTENSIVELY JULY 29 TO SHORE UP CASE AGAINST QADHAFI. GERMAN PAPERS QUOTED AS SAYING SOVIET PRESENCE IN LIBYA CONSTITUTES DIRECT THREAT TO BOTH EGYPT AND SUDAN, WHILE CONDEMNING QADHAFI'S USE OF OIL INCOME TO ENCOURAGE TERRORISM. TELEGRAMS OF SUPPORT TO SADAT FROM TRIBAL SHEIKS ON EGYPTIAN SIDE LIBYAN BORDER ALSO REPORTED PROMINENTLY.

6. EDITORIALS. AKHBAR FOCUSES ON COMMUNIST SUPPORT FOR QADHAFI, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHO HAS "TURNED LIBYA INTO BASE FOR SOVIET MACHINATIONS." PAPER NOTES LIBY STILL PROCRASTINATING ON AGREEING TO BOUMEDIENE-SOURCED CEASE-FIRE.

7. CARTER PRESS CONFERENCE. GUMHURIYYA AND AKHBAR NOTE WITHOUT COMMENT PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT THAT US AND SOVIET UNION SHOWED GREAT DEAL OF RESTRAINT IN DISPUTE BETWEEN EGYPT AND LIBYA.
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